

III. Remarks:

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application and have been rejected. The present amendment amends claims 1, 4, 6-9, 12-13, 15-16 and 18 to correct minor typographical errors and to more particularly point out and clarify Applicants' invention. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. After this amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Priority

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on the 10 2004 04 2209.5 application filed in Germany on September 1, 2004 and the 10 2004 04 8898.3 application filed in Germany on October 6, 2004 and that certified copies of these applications as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) are to be filed. Currently, Applicants are in the process of obtaining these documents for immediate filing. Applicants thank the Examiner for her patience regarding this matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 12-15 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 10018170 issued to Rasch et al. ("Rasch"). In view of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 12-15 and 18-20 are traversed.

Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended to recite that the airbag cover has an exterior surface facing an exterior environment. The venting arrangement also

includes at least one tube that is disposed on the exterior surface of the airbag cover. Support for these amendments may be found in Applicants' application at paragraphs [0038], [0047] and Figures 1-2, 6-7, 16 and 18-19.

Rasch discloses an airbag 12 with a device 16, which reacts to the passenger to limit expansion of the airbag. *Rasch* at Abstract. In one embodiment as illustrated in Figures 6a-6b, the airbag has a patch of fabric 46 forming a tube disposed over a venting hole 42 that is formed in the airbag. The fabric tube 46 is connected to the interior surface of the airbag. Thus, when the venting hole is locally impacted by the vehicle occupant, the internal gas from the inflator will push the fabric 46 to block the hole 4, providing a very localized means for obstructing venting (e.g. hole is impacted for obstructing venting).

This is unlike Applicants' present invention as recited in claims 1, 8 and 9 where the airbag comprises a venting arrangement that includes at least one tube which is disposed on the exterior surface of the airbag cover. Since Rasch only discloses the tube 46 on the interior surface of the airbag, Rasch lacks the noted elements of claims 1, 8 and 9. Accordingly, the rejections based thereon should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-12, 14-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,475,904 issued to Hofmann et al. ("Hofmann"). In view of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-12, 14-16 and 18-20 are traversed.

Hofmann has a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) filing date of January 31, 2005. Applicants' application for the present invention claims priority to German patent applications 102004042209.5, filed September 1, 2004 and 102004048898.3, filed October 6,

2004, both of which have filing dates that antedate Hofmann's §102(e) filing date. Thus, Hofmann does not qualify as prior art as to this application and therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections based thereon should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 8 and 9, and their dependent claims of 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofmann in view of U.S. Patent 6,712,384 to Abe ("Abe"). In view of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 17 is traversed.

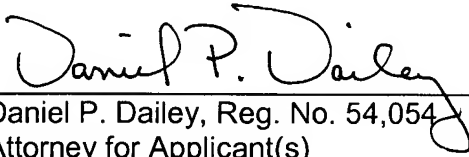
As discussed in the foregoing paragraph, Hofmann does not qualify as prior art as to this application and thus, the rejection based on the combination of Hofmann and Abe should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 17 is in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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